

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (currently amended): A composition for delivery of a biologically active agent to a cell, the composition comprising lipid-based vehicles which comprise conjugates of the formula:

A – (BC)

wherein:

A is a lipid structural component contained in the structure of said lipid-based vehicles;

B is a moiety comprising an internalizing peptide;

C is a moiety comprising a biologically active agent;

(BC) is a complex comprising B and C in which B is conjugated to C; and,

A is conjugated to (BC).

2. (canceled)

3. (previously presented): The composition of claim 1, wherein A is conjugated to (BC) by a coordinate covalent linkage.

4. (original): The composition of claim 3, wherein the linkage is between a metal-chelating moiety and a metal-affinity tag, wherein the chelating moiety and affinity tag form a complex with a metal ion.

5. (original): The composition of claim 4, wherein the affinity tag is on (BC).

6. (original): The composition of claim 5, wherein the metal-chelating moiety is a metal-chelating lipid in A.

7. (previously presented): The composition of claim 4, wherein the metal-affinity tag has a pKa of about 6 or more.

8. (previously presented): The composition of claim 4, wherein the metal-affinity tag disassociates from the metal-chelating moiety at a pH below normal physiological pH in a mammal.

9. (original): The composition of claim 8, wherein the tag begins to disassociate at or below about pH 6.5.
10. (previously presented): The composition of claim 4, wherein the metal-affinity tag is a tract of two or more amino acids having a pKa of about 6 or more.
11. (previously presented): The composition of claim 4, wherein the metal-affinity tag is a his-tag.
12. (previously presented): The composition of claim 4, wherein the metal ion is an ion of a metal selected from the group consisting of copper, nickel, zinc, iron, cobalt, manganese and magnesium.
13. (original): The composition of claim 12, wherein the metal is nickel.
14. (original): The composition of claim 12, wherein the metal is copper.
15. (original): The composition of claim 12, wherein the metal is cobalt.
16. (previously presented): The composition of claim 4, wherein the metal-chelating moiety comprises NTA.
17. (previously presented): The composition of claim 1, wherein A is conjugated to (BC) by a covalent bond.
18. (original): The composition of claim 17, wherein the covalent bond is a releasable bond.
19. (original): The composition of claim 18, wherein the releasable bond dissociates at a pH below normal physiological pH in a mammal.

20. (original): The composition of claim 18, wherein the releasable bond begins to dissociate at or below about pH 6.5.

21. (currently amended): The composition of any one of ~~claims 1-20~~ claims 1 or 2-20, wherein A is conjugated to B.

22. (currently amended): The composition of any one of ~~claims 1-20~~ claims 1 or 2-20, wherein A is conjugated to C.

23. (currently amended): The composition of any one of ~~claims 1-20~~ claims 1 or 2-20, wherein the internalizing peptide of B is ~~derived from~~ Antennapedia homeodomain.

24. (currently amended): The composition of any one of ~~claims 1-20~~ claims 1 or 2-20, wherein the biologically active agent of C is hydrophilic.

25. (currently amended): The composition of any one of ~~claims 1-20~~ claims 1 or 2-20, wherein the biologically active agent of C is selected from the group consisting of a peptide, a nucleic acid, and a drug that is not a peptide or nucleic acid.

26. (original): The composition of claim 25, wherein C is a peptide and (BC) is a fusion peptide.

27. (original): The composition of claim 26, wherein (BC) is a recombinant peptide.

28. (currently amended): A composition according to any one of ~~claims 1-20~~ claims 1 or 2-20, wherein said vehicles comprise a biologically active agent.

29. (currently amended): The composition of any one of ~~claims 1-20~~ claims 1 or 2-20, wherein said vehicles are liposomes.

30. (currently amended): The composition of any one of ~~claims 1-20~~ claims 1 or 2-20, wherein the biologically active agent of C is an antigen for eliciting an immune response.

31. (currently amended): An injectable pharmaceutical preparation comprising a composition according to any one of ~~claims 1-20~~ claims 1 or 2-20, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

32-33. (canceled)

34. (currently amended): A method of delivering a biologically active agent to a cell in a patient, comprising administering a composition according to any one of ~~claims 1-20~~ claims 1 or 2-20, to the patient.

35. (original): The method of claim 34, wherein the administering is by injection.